

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4051
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, UNGA, CB, VM
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNGA ACTION TO ASSIST SOUTHEAST ASIAN
REFUGEES

REF: A. USUN 3452; B. STATE 228405

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT PRESENTED REFTELS WITH
DEPUTY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES DE HAAN ON
SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13.
2. DE HAAN FELT THAT THE ACTION PROPOSED IN REGARD TO
EITHER SUPPORTING THE TRADITIONAL LAW OF THE SEA RULES
CONCERNING RESCUE OR DRAFTING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SHIPS
ENCOUNTERING REFUGEES IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS, HAD
CONSIDERABLE MERIT AND WOULD RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HAD SERIOUS
RESERVATIONS AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF DRAFTING ANOTHER
CODE OF CONDUCT DIRECTED TOWARD THOSE NATIONS RECEIVING
REFUGEES FOR FIRST ASYLUM UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUM-
STANCES (BOAT CASES). SUCH A PROJECT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS
WITHIN THE UNHCR SECRETARIAT AND WITH GOVERNMENTS CON-
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CERNED IN THE (SOUTHEAST ASIAN) AREA, DE HAAN FELT. HE
CONSIDERED THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE MIGHT NOT BE PRODUCTIVE,
IN THAT MOST GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED ARE ALREADY "DOING A
DECENT JOB" IN THIS REGARD, WHILE THOSE SUCH AS SINGAPORE
WHICH ARE NOT, COULD BE EXPECTED TO RESENT SUCH A MOVE
AND THEREFORE BECOME EVEN LESS COOPERATIVE. ACCORDINGLY,
HE RECOMMENDED AGAINST SUCH A DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT.

3. DE HAAN'S FURTHER THOUGHT WAS THAT THE PROPER FORUM FOR INITIALLY ADVANCING THIS MATTER WOULD BE THE COMING OCTOBER SESSION OF THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD THEN FORWARD ITS FINDINGS OR AUTHORIZATION TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS SUBJECT MIGHT BE TAKEN UP UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3 (STATEMENT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND GENERAL DEBATE); ITEM 4 (INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION); OR ITEM 6 (UNHCR ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES).
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: UNGA RESOLUTIONS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, RESCUE OPERATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: SREF, CB, VM, UNHCR, UNGA
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